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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent
Case No.: 57002US002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor: LODER, HARRY A.

Application No.: 09/997570

Group Art Unit: 1744

Filed: November 29, 2001

Examiner: Chin, Randall E.

Title: ARTICLE AND PROCESS FOR CLEANING OPTICAL SURFACES

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

10-14-03
Date

Tom Sanders
Signed by: Tom Sanders

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed September 15, 2003 that included requirements for both restriction and election of species.

Restriction Requirement

Regarding the restriction requirement, Claims 1-26, pending in the present application, were subject to restriction under 35 USC §121 as follows:

- I. Claims 1-20 and 22-25 are said to be drawn to an article for cleaning recessed surfaces, classified in Class 15, subclass 210.1;
- II. Claim 21 is said to be drawn to an applicator for applying a cleaning cover to a carrier belt, classified in Class 15, subclass 246;
- III. Claim 26 is said to be drawn to a method for cleaning a recessed surface, classified in Class 134, subclass 6.

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicant elects Group I including Claims 1 – 20 and 22 - 25, with traverse. With this election, Claims 21 and 26 are withdrawn from the present invention.

Election of Species

The Office Action indicates requirement for election of species according to the following statement:

- “7. This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species in the claims invention: 1) Figs. 1 - 5, 2) Figs. 6 – 10, and 3) Figs. 11 - 16, 18 - 22.”

In response to the election of species requirement, Applicant elects the species illustrated in Figs. 1 – 5 and claimed in Claims 10 and 11 of the present invention.

Remarks

Applicant has made election of claims of Group I, including Claims 1 – 20 and 22 – 25, as required by the restriction requirement. In response to the requirement for election of species, applicant elects the article illustrated in Figures 1 - 5 and claimed in Claims 10 and 11.

The Office Action in point 7 states, "Currently, no claim is generic."

The genus of articles according to the present invention is found in claims 1 - 9, 14 - 20 and 22 - 25. A generic article, as recited e.g. in claim 1, includes a shaft, a cleaning head assembly (see definition at page 5, lines 28 - 31) an actuator (see definition at page 5, line 32 to page 6 line 4) and a connector. Identification of species depends upon variation of actuator structure. Actuator structure variation produces a first species, illustrated in Figures 1 - 5 and claimed in Claims 10 and 11. Claims 12 and 13 address a second species of actuator that is illustrated in Figures 6 - 10. Figures 11 - 16 and 18 - 22 relate essentially to Claim 21, which has been cancelled from the present invention in response to the requirement for restriction.

Conclusion

Applicants have elected the claims of Group I and the species shown in Figures 1 - 5. Continued prosecution of this application is respectfully requested.

It is believed that no fee is due; however, in the event a fee is required, please charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 13-3723. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the indicated telephone number with questions that can be resolved with a simple teleconference.

Respectfully submitted,

14 October 2003
Date

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